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MAMMALS



**BRITISH
MAMMALS**

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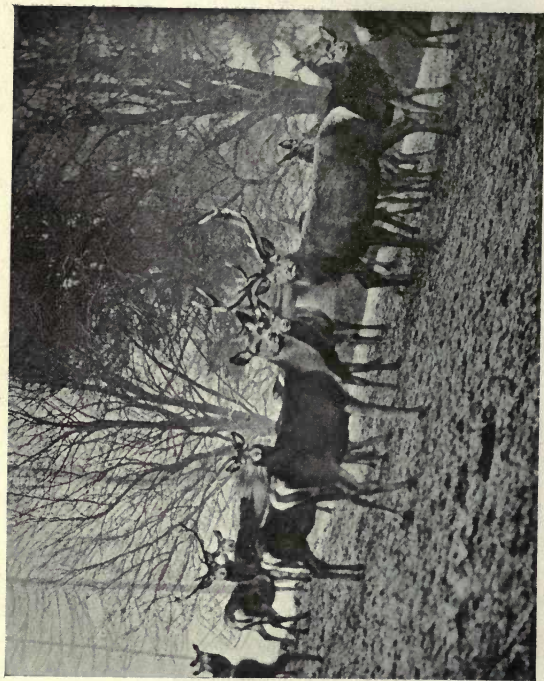
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RED DEER
(*Cervus elaphus*)

Chas. Kirk, Photo.

BRITISH MAMMALS

*Sixty photographs from life by Oxley Grabham, M.A.,
T. A. Metcalfe, Sydney H. Smith,
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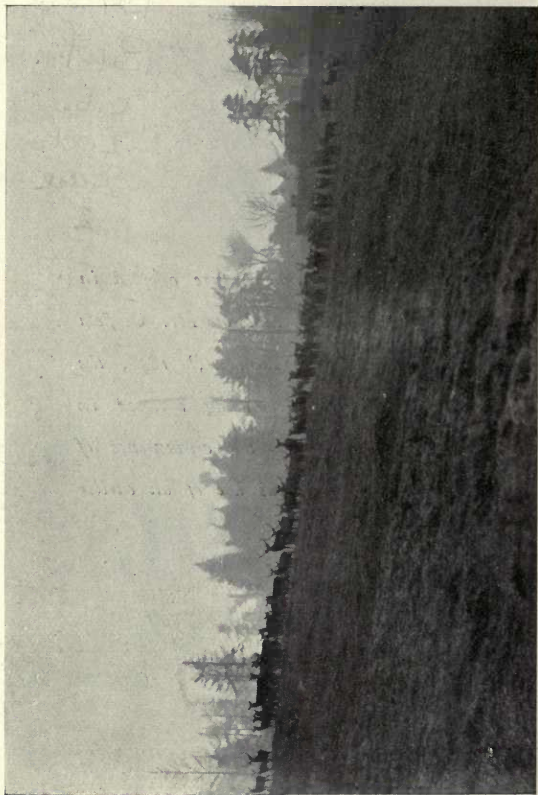
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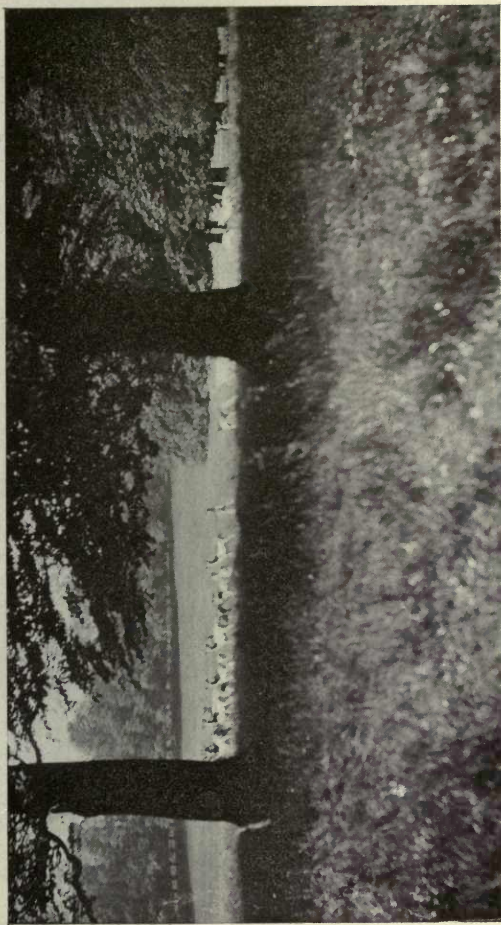
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THE Latin nomenclature adopted in this book is that of Mr. Oldfield Thomas in the "Zoologist," 1898, the then current names being enclosed in square brackets for the convenience of those whose text-books are of an earlier date.

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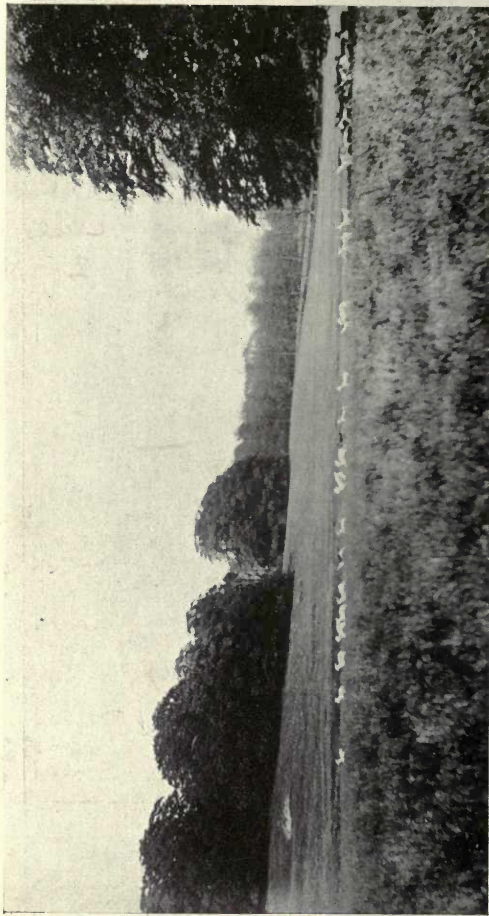


Chas. Kirk. Photo.



FALLOW DEER
(*Cervus dama*)

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.



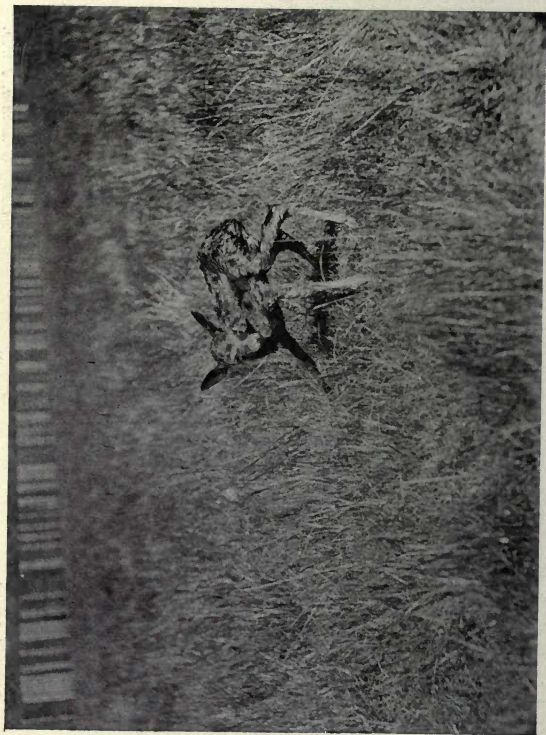
FALLOW DEER

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.



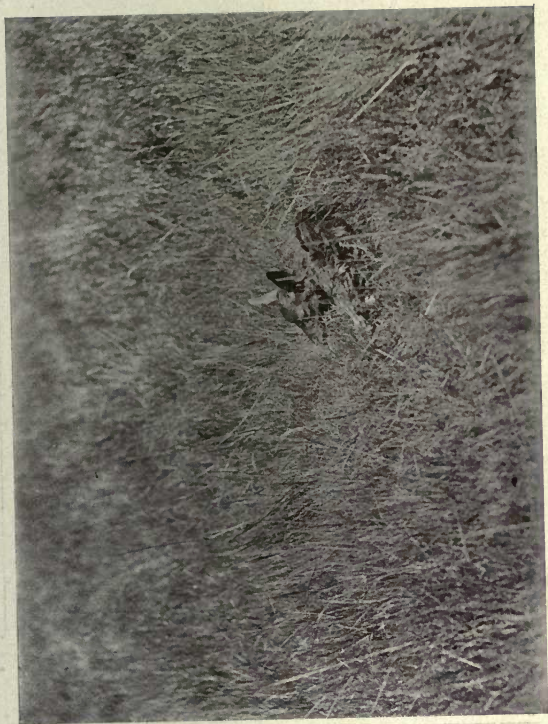
FALLOW FAWN

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



FALLOW FAWN (1 day old)
(Dark Brown Variety)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



Oxley Grabham, Photo.

YOUNG FALLOW FAWN (a few hours old)
(Dark Brown Variety)

Oct 1, 1904 / 1. 11

(1904) 1. 11



SQUIRREL
(*Sciurus vulgaris*)

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



SQUIRREL

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



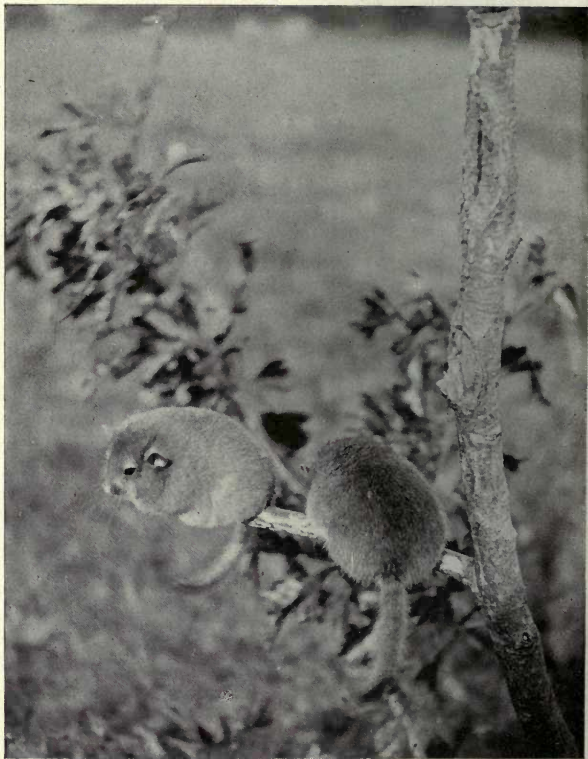
YOUNG SQUIRRELS IN NEST (a week old)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



NEST OF SQUIRREL

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



DORMICE
(*Muscardinus avellanarius*)

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



DORMICE

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



WATER VOLE

T. A. Metcalf, Photo.



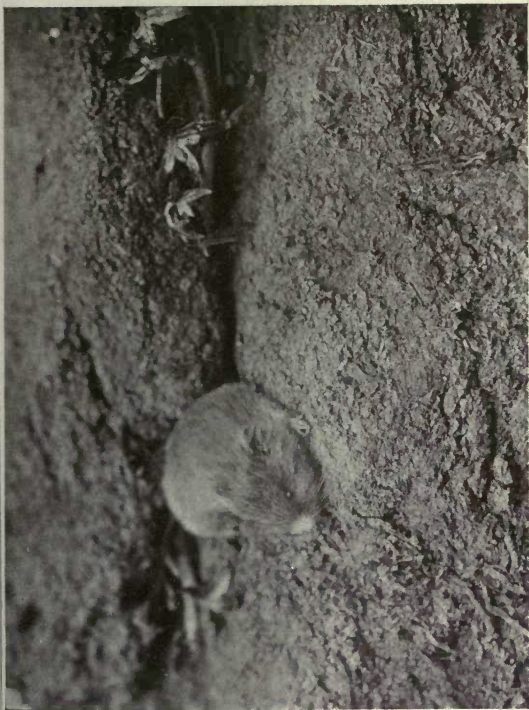
WATER VOLE

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



WATER VOLE (Melanic Type)

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.



COMMON OR SHORT-TAILED
FIELD VOLE
(*Microtus [Arvicola] agrestis*)

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.



COMMON FIELD VOLE

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.

COMMON FIELD VOLE

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



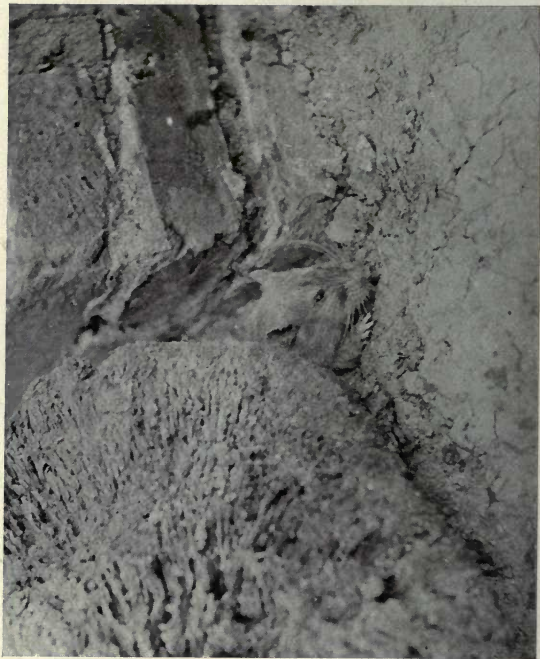
YOUNG FIELD VOLES

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.



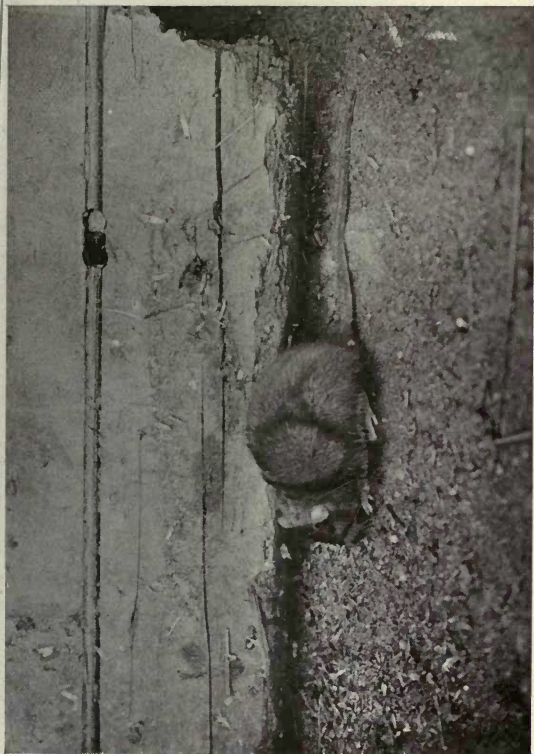
RED OR BANK VOLE
(*Evotomys [Arvicola] glareolus*)

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



COMMON OR BROWN RAT
(*Mus decumanus*)

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.



BROWN RAT

Chas. Kirk, Photo.



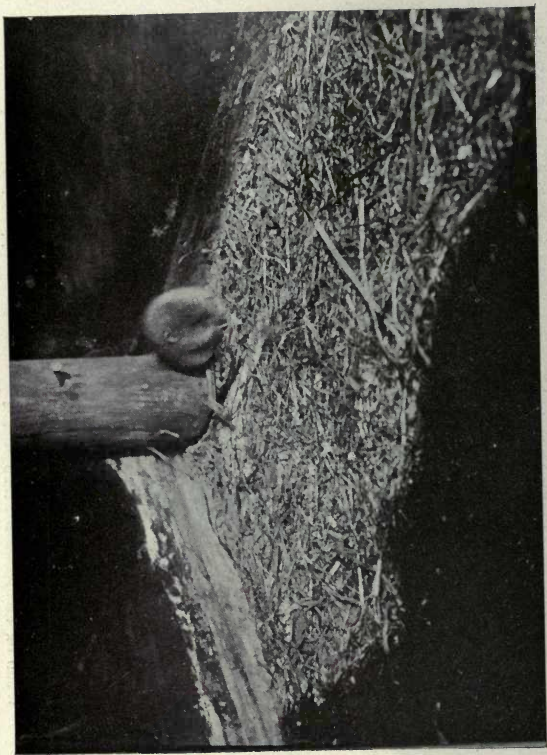
HOUSE MOUSE
(*Mus musculus*)

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



WOOD OR LONG-TAILED FIELD MOUSE
(*Mus sylvaticus*)

T. A. Metcalf, Photo.



Oxley Grabham, Photo.

HARVEST MOUSE
(*Mus minutus*)



HARVEST MOUSE

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



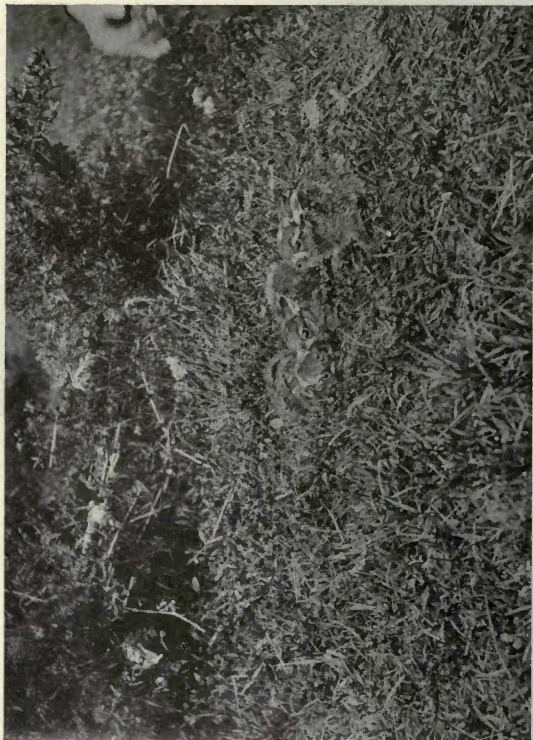
THREE YOUNG HARES IN NEST
(*Lepus europaeus* [*timidus*])

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



Chas. Kirk, Photo.

YOUNG HARES



YOUNG HARES

Chas. Kirk, Photo.



YOUNG RABBITS OUTSIDE NEST
(*Lepus cuniculus*)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



YOUNG RABBIT AT MOUTH OF
BURROW

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



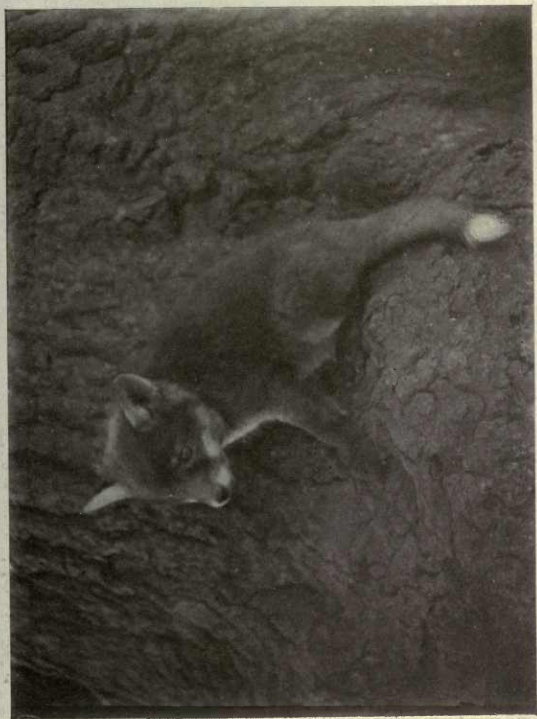
YOUNG RABBITS IN NEST (covered up)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



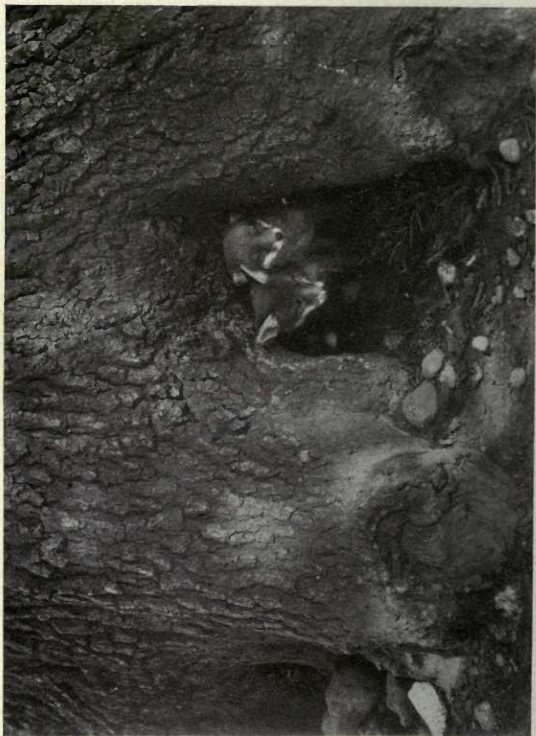
YOUNG RABBITS IN NEST (uncovered)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



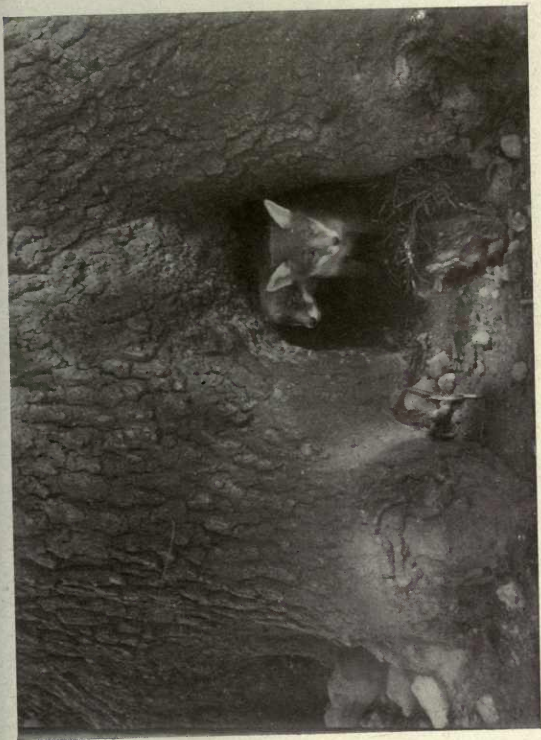
T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.

YOUNG FOX
(*Vulpes vulpes [vulgaris]*)



YOUNG FOXES (6 weeks old)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



YOUNG FOXES (6 weeks old)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.

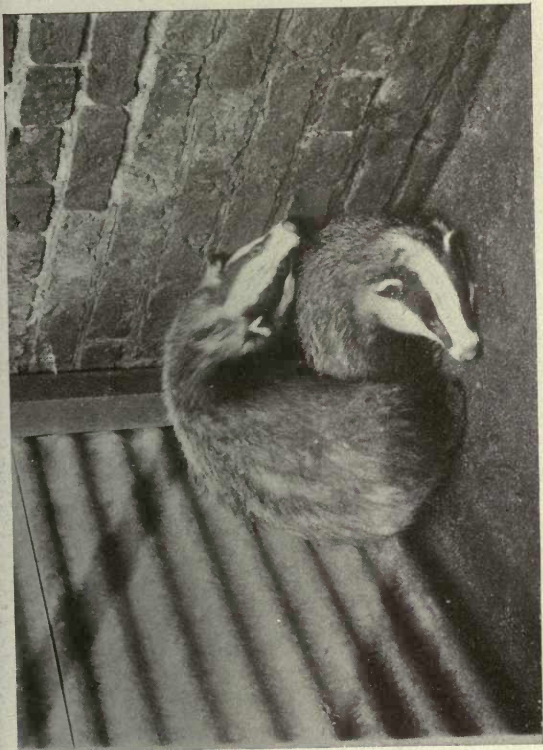


OTTER

(*Lutra lutra* [*vulgaris*])

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.

(By kind permission of "Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.")



Oxley Graham, Photo.

PAIR OF OLD BADGERS, MALE AND FEMALE
(*Meles meles [tarus]*)



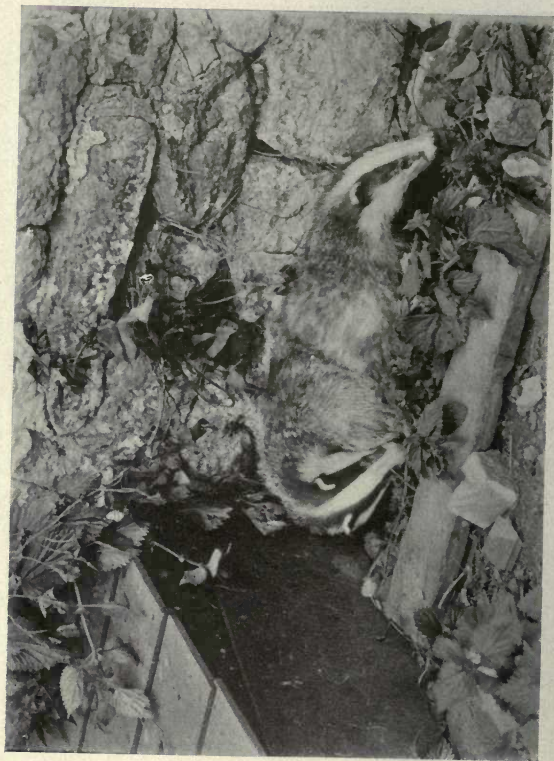
BADGER

Sydney H. Smith, Photo.



Oxley Grabham, Photo.

YOUNG BADGERS



YOUNG BADGERS

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



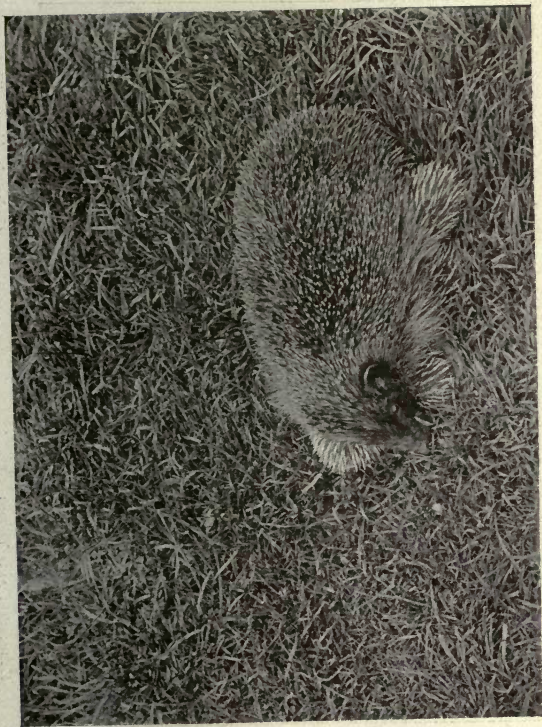
Oxley Grabham, Photo.

WEASEL EATING DEAD RABBIT
(*Putorius nivalis* [*Mustela vulgaris*])



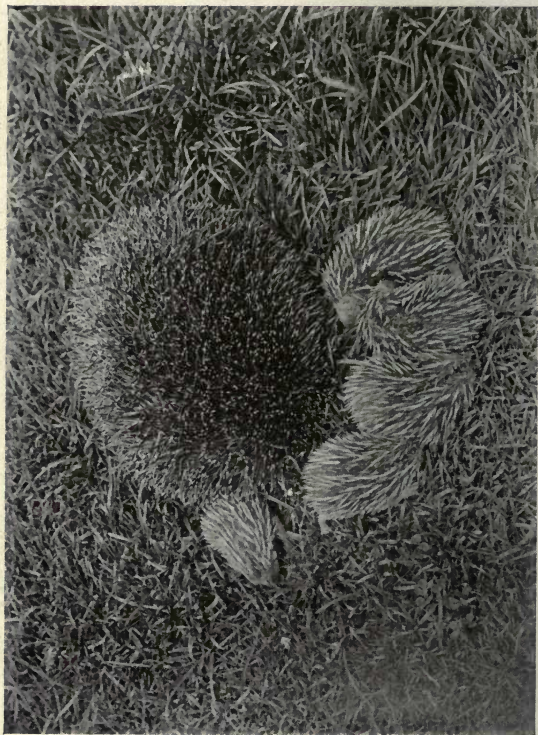
WEASEL WITH DEAD RABBIT

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



HEDGEHOG BROODING YOUNG
(*Erinaceus europaeus*)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



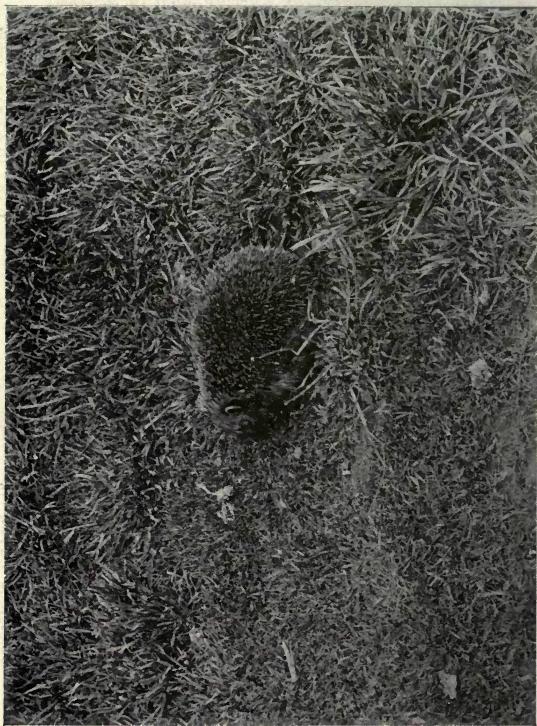
HEDGEHOG AND YOUNG

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



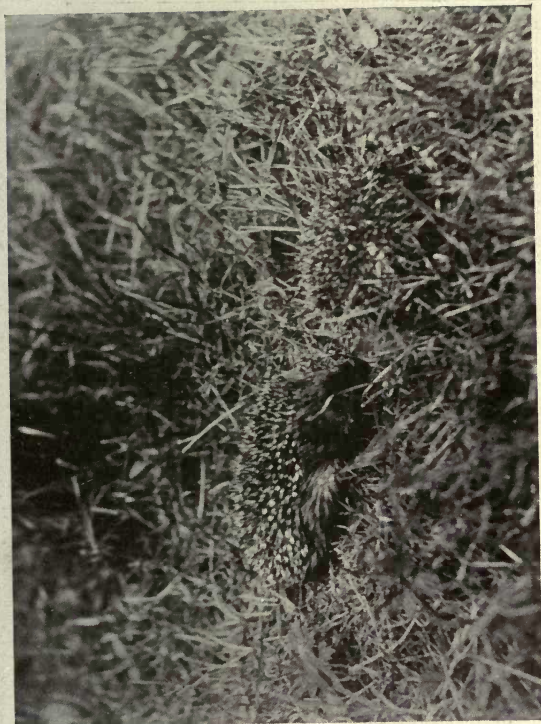
Oxley Graham, Photo.

HEDGEHOG ROLLED UP



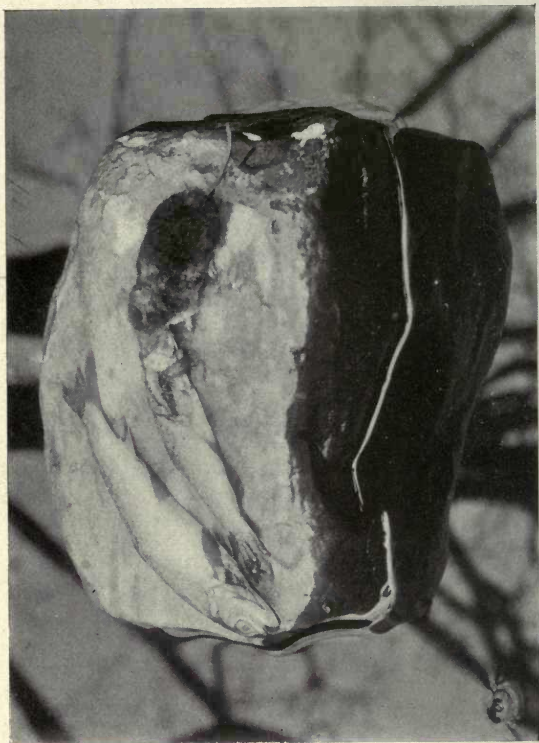
HEDGEHOG WALKING

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



Sydney H. Smith, Photo.

HEDGEHOGS IN THE GRASS



Oxley Graham, Photo.

WATER SHREW AND YOUNG TROUT
KILLED BY IT

(*Neomys [Crossopus] fodiens*)

ERRATUM

The animal shown in the picture on page 54 is not the Water Shrew, but the Common Shrew, *Sorex araneus* [vulgaris].

This little animal is common almost everywhere, and is often to be picked up dead on the roadsides and in similar places, seemingly at times affected by a serious epidemic which kills off great numbers of them. They are very pugnacious and savage little animals, and fight fiercely amongst themselves. They have a strong musky smell, and owing to this, cats, although they will kill them readily, very seldom eat them.

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.

WATER SHREW





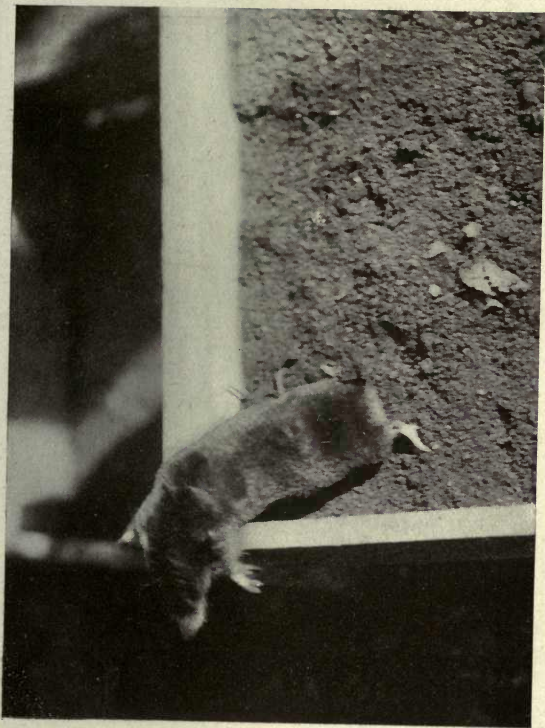
T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.

WATER SHREW



WATER SHREW

T. A. Metcalfe, Photo.



TAME MOLE
(*Talpa europaea*)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



YOUNG MOLES IN NEST (2 days old)

Oxley Graham, Photo.



Oxley Grabham, Photo.

YOUNG MOLES IN NEST (a fortnight old)



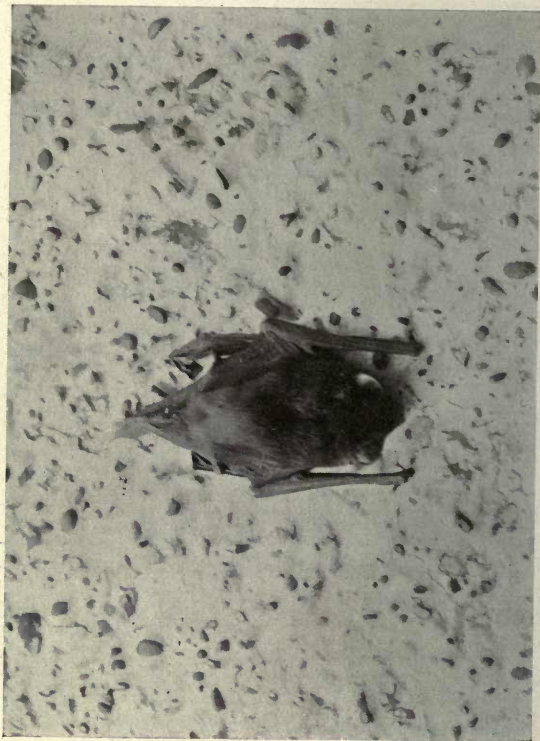
LONG-EARED BAT
(*Plecotus auritus*)

Oxley Grubham, Photo.



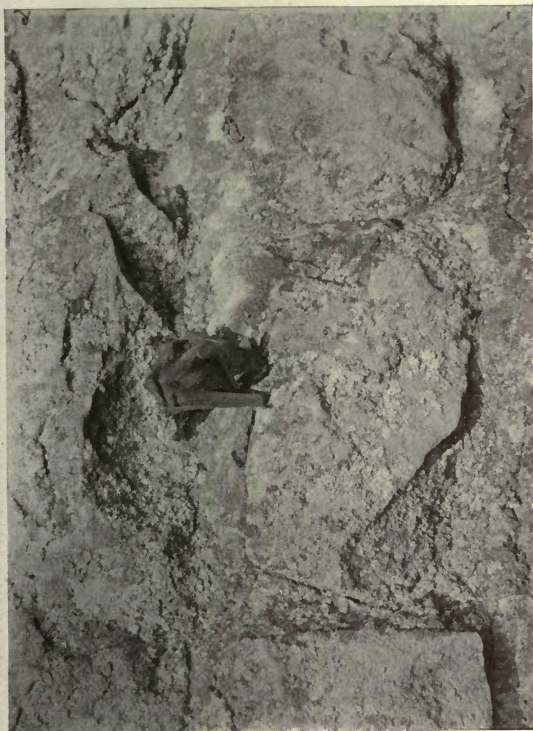
Oxley Grabham, Photo.

LONG-EARED BAT



NOCTULE OR GREAT BAT
(*Pipistrellus* [*Vesperugo*] *noctula*)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



PIPISTRELLE
(*Pipistrellus* [*Vesperugo*] *pipistrellus*)

Oxley Grabham, Photo.



Oxley Grabham, Photo.

WHISKERED BAT
(*Myotis [Vespertilio] mystacinus*)

Some Notes ^{on} the Mammals

OF WHICH

PHOTOGRAPHS APPEAR IN
THE FOREGOING PAGES . .

BY

OXLEY GRABHAM, M.A., M.B.O.U.

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*, Linn).—Still running wild in some of the uninhabited districts both in Great Britain and Ireland. Those to be found in enclosed parks are semi-domesticated. In the rutting season the stags are often very savage and dangerous to approach, and people have on several occasions been killed by them. The shedding of the antlers, and the growing of a fresh pair is a most interesting feature in the life-history of deer.

Fallow Deer (*Cervus dama*, Linn).—These pretty dappled deer are now only to be found in parks in a semi-domesticated state. The fawns are beautiful little things, generally dappled, but some are quite black when born. They are dropped in the summer, amongst thick grass, beds of nettle, bracken, etc., and the hinds, as soon as the fawns can run, watch over their offspring with great care. The flesh of the Fallow Deer, which, in common with that of Red Deer, is known as Venison, is indeed most excellent and savoury meat, when the animals have been running on a good rich pasture.

Common Hare (*Lepus europæus*, Pallas).—We have two kinds of hares in these islands, the common or brown hare, and the "Blue" or mountain hare, which turns white in winter. The brown hare is far and away the best for food. It is still very common in many parts of the country, and is well known to everybody. Young hares are born above ground, and with their eyes open, whilst young rabbits, which are born generally in a burrow in the ground, have their eyes closed. Three and four are the usual numbers of young hares in a litter, but I have known of an instance where eight were found. If obtained quite young they become very tame, and will follow their owner about like a dog. In some parts of the country the hare is known as the "Grass Cat," and also as "Sarah." The average weight of a hare is from 8 to 9 lbs.

Rabbit (*Lepus cuniculus*, Linn).—This well-known animal is to be found in almost every suitable locality throughout the kingdom, and in some districts large warrens containing several thousand are maintained. They are known as "Conies" and "Bunnies," and white, sandy, and black varieties are by no means unfrequently seen. In some districts little colonies of the black ones are to be found. I have on several occasions known the nest placed right on the top of a haystack, and also in an old scarecrow set up in a field. Rabbits are sometimes found with curious malformations of the front teeth, these having grown to a great length, and often in the shape of a half or whole circle. I have shot them myself like this, fat and in perfect condition, but have seen specimens that were nothing but skin and bone, being unable to obtain their proper supply of food when so affected.

Common Rat (*Mus decumanus*, Pallas).—This animal, known as the brown rat to distinguish it from the very much scarcer black rat, is only too common. In some places it positively swarms, and does a great amount of damage amongst poultry, rabbits, game, and various crops in the gardens and fields. As I have several times recorded, the Rev: C. Hutton-Coates and I, on November 17th, 1896, killed in Yorkshire the largest rat that, so far, has ever been recorded. It was an old buck, and weighed $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., measuring 20 ins. from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail. There is a black variety of this rat, quite different to the old English black rat which is found chiefly in Ireland. The popular name for the rat is "Ratton," and though they are trapped in every conceivable manner, hunted out with ferrets, and shot, yet they still seem to keep up their numbers, as they are very prolific. I have known as many as sixteen and seventeen young rats found in a nest, and in some seasons they invade certain districts in vast hordes, carrying all before them. They are very plucky little animals, and, especially when cornered, will not hesitate to attack even man himself.

Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*, Linn).—These pretty little animals, something like a miniature squirrel, are more common in the southern than in the northern parts of our islands. During the summer months they are very agile, climbing amongst the shrubs and hedgerows with great ease; but during the winter months they lie dormant, enclosed in some warm nest of their own making, or one which they have appropriated. They make most interesting pets, and many of us in the days of our youth have kept dormice.

Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*, Linn).—Common in many of our woods and plantations, but unfortunately in some of the young woods war has to be waged against them because of the damage they do to the larch and spruce, eating off the lead and other shoots and barking the trees. In certain parts of Scotland I believe that one or two squirrel clubs are in existence solely for the purpose of destroying them. In old woods they do but little harm. They make a large, warm nest, or "drey," often utilizing an old magpie or carrion crow's, and the usual number of young, which are born blind, is three. When obtained young they soon become absolutely tame and fearless. Their food consists chiefly of nuts, acorns, beech mast, fir cones, and grain, but they are very fond of various kinds of fruit. During the cold weather they hibernate in holes in trees and similar places. I once saw a pure white one with pink eyes.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens*, Pallas).—This pretty little mammal is not often seen save by those who know how to look for it and to keep quiet when in search of it. Though not so numerous as the Common Shrew, it is to be found on the banks of many of our streams and ditches, and is a first-rate hand at diving and swimming. At the first glance it has somewhat the appearance of a young mole. A variety is occasionally found as black on the under surface as on the upper. All the shrews are known in the country as "blind mice," and many interesting superstitions hang round them.

Long-tailed Field Mouse (*Mus sylvaticus*, Linn).—This mouse, often called the Wood Mouse, is a very common and destructive little animal, especially in gardens, where it devours the newly-sown peas wholesale, and also the crocus and other bulbs. Owls are very fond of them, as they are of several other kinds of mice. A large race known as the Yellow-Necked (*M. flavicollis*) occurs in some parts of the country.

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*, Linn).—Known to everyone, and at times a great nuisance in houses, barns, granaries, etc. They are destructive little animals, and often damage valuable objects. In the winter the corn stacks absolutely swarm with them, and hundreds are killed during a day's threshing. In some parts of the country they are still cooked and given to children suffering from various diseases. I have seen sandy coloured ones with pink eyes, and others spotted more or less with white. I have seen the nest made in the midst of a bread loaf.

Harvest Mouse (*Mus minutus*, Linn).—One of the smallest as well as one of the most graceful of our indigenous mammals. They are somewhat local, and rarely occur in the north. The nest is a most beautiful structure, and is generally placed a foot or two up on the corn stalks, being composed of the sheaths of the stalks woven into a compact mass. It is sometimes also placed in the head of a big thistle. I have often kept this mouse alive, and if they get the chance they are desperate cannibals, fighting fiercely among themselves and devouring the slain.

Water Vole (*Microtus amphibius*, Linn).—This interesting animal is generally known as the Water Rat from the fact that it lives on the banks of rivers, lakes, and ditches; but the voles differ in many respects from the mice and rats. Their tails are shorter, their ears are shorter, and so are their noses. Altogether they have a blunt, thick-set appearance. The Water Vole is almost entirely herbivorous, though on rare occasions it has been known to eat fish; but the ordinary brown rat, which takes to the streams in summer, is generally the culprit when fish are found destroyed. The fur of this little animal is very soft and warm, and admirably suited to its aquatic habits. A beautiful black variety is obtained in some parts of the country. They are very destructive at times on ornamental waters to the roots and crowns of certain plants growing near at hand.

Common or Short-tailed Field Vole (*Microtus agrestis*, Linn).—This is the destructive little rodent which at times has done an immense amount of damage on the grazing land, especially in Scotland. When all their natural enemies, such as owls, hawks, weasels, etc., are destroyed, they increase and multiply at an enormous rate, and descend on the country side, destroying wholesale. They also at times come into the market gardens with the Long-tailed Field Mouse, and do a great deal of harm.

Red or Bank Vole (*Eutamias glareolus*, Schreber).—This is a much prettier vole than the foregoing, and is not nearly so numerous, keeping more to banks and plantations, but I have at times caught considerable numbers of them in gardens. Not very long ago this vole was considered quite a rarity, but of late years they have increased very much in many localities.

Fox (*Vulpes Nulpes*, Linn).—Too well known by everybody to need much description, and his craftiness and cunning have been a byword for generations in these islands. The cubs are charming little things, and when brought up by hand become perfectly tame; but as they grow older they are always more or less suspicious and uncertain, though I have known several of their owners under these conditions, and especially ladies, handle them with impunity. Destructive at all times, the fox only exists on sufferance, so that he may provide sport for the numerous packs of hounds that are kept up throughout the kingdom; but a fox's larder when the vixen has cubs to provide for would prove an eye-opener

for some people, who have no idea to what lengths these animals can go. Amongst other things foxes will often kill and eat hedgehogs.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*, Linn).—This interesting animal is by no means uncommon on many of our streams, and if it were only legitimately hunted with otter hounds instead of being trapped and shot whenever the opportunity presents itself it would soon become quite numerous; and my own experience is that on many streams it does very little harm to the trout and grayling, feeding largely upon coarse fish, such as eels—of which it is very fond—water voles, and the large fresh water mussels. Like most other animals, if obtained when a little cub, it will grow up quite tame and follow its owner about like a dog, and if trained to do so will even go into the water and catch fish for him. Otters often travel a long way from water, and very occasionally will take to evil ways, killing ducks, poultry, etc. They are splendid swimmers, as indeed they need to be if they have to catch a large fish in his native element.

Badger (*Meles meles*, Linn).—This most interesting animal is, I am glad to say, still quite common, in spite of persecution in a good many different localities throughout the country, and, indeed, on some estates it is more or less preserved. I have frequently had the pleasure of seeing both old and young playing outside their burrow, quite unconscious that I was concealed either in thick bracken some forty yards away or up in a tree close at hand. They feed largely on roots of various kinds, and are very fond of the grubs that they dig out of the nests of the wasps and wild bees. I have seen tame badgers, but of course they must be procured as cubs. The old name of the Badger is "Brock," and this is at times come across in place names in different parts of the country. It is a mistake to suppose that badgers and foxes will not get on together; they will often live in close proximity for years without interfering with one another.

Weasel (*Putorius nivalis*, Linn).—This plucky little animal, in spite of general persecution, is still by no means uncommon, and it does a great deal of good in keeping down the rats and mice. The female is considerably smaller than the male—sometimes remarkably so—and country people generally imagine that there are two kinds, calling the small ones by the name of Mouse Weasel. They are frequently caught in the mole runs, where they pursue the field mice. Both weasels and stoats are very playful animals, and I have watched them rolling over and over, and jumping high up into the air. They are very pugnacious in defence of their young, and are generally known in the country as "wressels." I have seen one or two beautiful albino examples, pure white with pink eyes.

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europæus*, Linn).—The Prickle-back Urchin, the name by which he is generally known, is common in most suitable localities, and feeding largely upon various insects, does not do half the amount of harm that is imputed to him. I have often found their nests, generally containing four or five young, which, when first born, are covered with soft hairs. Gipsies are very fond of them, cooking them in various ways, and in their encampments I have breakfasted with them off this dainty meat, which is really excellent. The hedgehog only partially hibernates, coming out at times from its warm winter quarters, in the depth of winter during hard frost, and when snow lies deep upon the ground. They are popularly supposed to suck the cows, but I have never been fortunate enough to come across one myself so engaged, nor have I ever met any one who had. I have kept dozens of them in

my garden, and the only thing I have against them is, that at times they swarm with fleas. They never touched either chickens or eggs, though they had the run of my hen house. I have seen a beautiful white variety with pink eyes.

Mole (*Talpa europæa*, Linn).—The well-known Moldard or Moudiewarp is too common to need much description. Of late years his soft, velvety skin has become a fashionable fur for ladies' wear. Where they are too numerous they do harm, but in moderation they render much service to the agriculturist by destroying large quantities of injurious grubs and insects. I have frequently dug out their nests, warm masses of grass and leaves, containing four or five young, and I once kept one alive for some six weeks in a tub half-filled with earth. They are most ravenous little creatures, and it is quite astonishing what a quantity of worms they can devour. The fortress or home of the mole is very ingeniously constructed, so that when danger threatens he can escape by one of the numerous passages leading to it. I have a fine collection of varieties of this little animal—white, sandy, piebald, blue, etc., but I have never succeeded in getting one spotted with white, though I have seen one or two examples.

Noctule, or Great Bat (*Pipistrellus noctula*, Schreber).—This, one of the largest of our bats, is fairly common throughout the country, but is somewhat local, being more numerous in some places than in others. It flies high up in the air, and may at times be seen hawking for flies in broad daylight. Bats are generally regarded by most people with a feeling of horror, but they are most useful and interesting little animals, and are well worthy of more attention being paid to them than has hitherto been the case. They are known in various parts of the country as "Black-beer-aways" and as "Flittermice." I have seen the Noctule dip into a pond on a summer's evening.

Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Schreber).—This little bat is the commonest species that we have, and it is often to be seen abroad in the middle of the day, even during winter if the weather be warm. In common with others of its kind, it often collects in great numbers in belfries, caves, and similar places, where it passes the hours of daylight in a more or less torpid condition.

Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*, Leisler).—This little bat, though larger than the pipistrelle, is by no means so common as that species. Where it does occur it is generally to be found in small colonies, but it is decidedly local. I do not know that it is really more whiskered than some of the other bats, but at any rate these appendages show up well, and from them it takes its popular name. In common with most of the bats, this species often swarms with parasites.

Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*, Linn).—This extraordinary looking little creature, with ears as long as its body, is to be found in many places. When at rest, asleep, or hibernating during the winter months, the bats generally hang head downwards, grasping some support with their sharp claws; and in the case of this particular species, the long lobes of the ear are folded under the arm, giving it a most curious appearance, as only the long narrow tragus appears on each side. I once saw a beautiful white specimen of this bat, with pink eyes, which had been taken in Hampshire. Varieties of bats are very rare, and this was the only one I have ever seen.

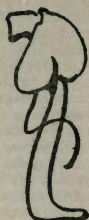
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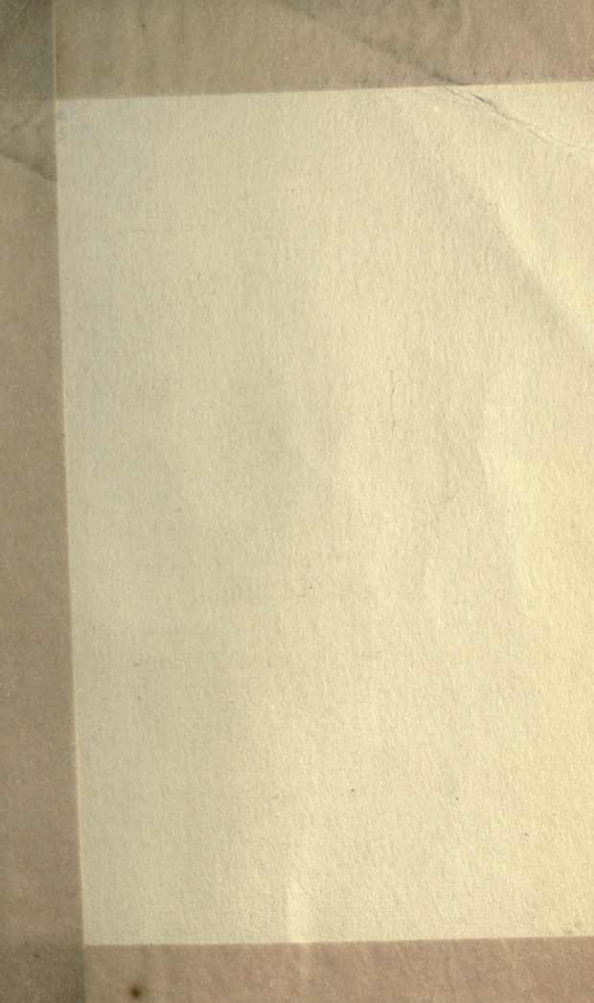


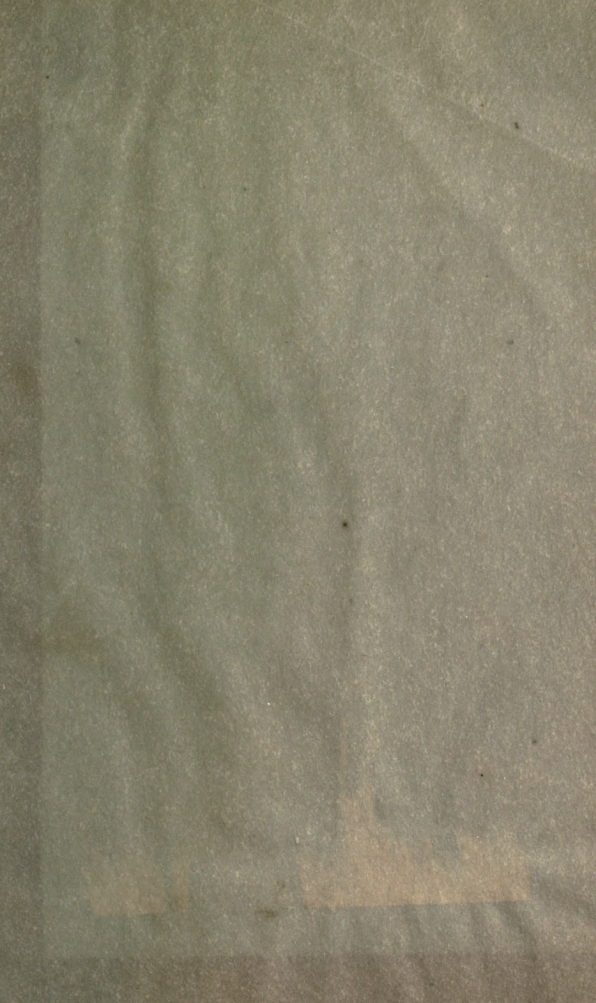
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